GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010
FIRE IN OIL DEPOTS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of fire incidents which occurred during the last two years and the current year at various units/depots;

(b) the broad reasons for the occurrence of such incidents;

(c) whether any inquiries were conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof including follow-up action thereon; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent fire accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to to OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 421 (1ST POSITION) RAISED BY SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR TO BE ANSWERED ON 9-TH DECEMBER, 2010 REGARDING `FIRE IN OIL DEPOTS`.

During the last two years and the current year, a total of eleven (11) incidents of fire in depots of public sector oil companies have been reported. While some of the incidents are attributed to non-observance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and issues related to maintenance/housekeeping, others are `accidents` despite due precautions having been taken. All the incidents are normally investigated by the respective oil companies and in select cases involving major incidents, investigations are carried out by the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) or through a Committee appointed by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG). The maintenance, up-dating of present SOPs, preparation of site specific SOPs and housekeeping related recommendations are implemented immediately by respective oil companies and these are verified during subsequent inspections / audits by OISD. The details of the cases, reasons for occurrence of the incident and other details are given at Annexure.

The recommendations given by the Independent Inquiry Committee constituted by MOP&NG post Jaipur Oil Depot fire incident on 29.10.2009 include measures for the overall improvement and strengthening of safety measures at Oil Depots, These recommendations have been accepted by the Government and their compliance in a time bound manner is being monitored by a Committee constituted by MOP&NG.